(iii) adverse working conditions, (iv) denial of appropriate medical facilities, (v) poor living conditions, etc.

Women marrying NRIs

1914. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enact a law to protect women marrying Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) No Sir, there is no proposal under consideration to enact a separate legislation to protect the women marrying NRIs. However, a proposal to enact a suitable legislation relating to compulsory registration of marriages is under consideration of the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department).

Corruption in Panchayats

1915. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Sarpanchs and the Gram Sewaks/ Panchayat Secretary are indulging in wholesale corruption in implementation of various schemes of Government such as road construction, NREGA, and many other development works;

(b) in what manner Government propose to motivate the Sarpanchs who work truly for the development of the area; and

(c) in what manner Government would motivate the State Governments to hold Panchayat elections in States like Jharkhand where Panchayat elections have not been held for the last couple of decades?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) In view of the provisions of Article 243G of the Constitution, the processes of endowing the Panchayats and their Presidents with powers and authority has been entrusted to State Legislatures and the State executive. This would include monitoring and correcting the work of the Village Panchayat President and officers working with the Village Panchayat. As far as NREGA and other schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are concerned, District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been established under the chairpersonship of Members of Parliament.

(b) The responsibility for motivating Sarpanches primarily vests in State Governments. The Union Government in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj assists the process by making available funds under its Capacity-building and Training Schemes. A proposal is under process for providing sufficient funds to the Panchayats Empowerment and Accountability Incentivization Scheme to incentivize States to effectively endow the Panchayats with Functions, Finances and Functionaries and to hold the Panchayats accountable to their respective Gram Sabhas for the efficient and honest delivery of services and works.

(c) As per Article 243E of the Constitution, all States and Union Territories covered under Part IX of the Constitution are required to hold elections regularly within five years. By and large, elections to Panchayats have been held regularly in all States/UTs except Jharkhand. There is litigation pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in regard the Panchayati Raj system in Jharkhand. The matter is being pursued for an early hearing.

Implementation of schemes through Panchayats

† l916. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have considered to implement the schemes declared by Central Government through Panchayats;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and its outline;

(c) the States where Panchayats have duly been constituted; and

(d) by when the target of constituting the same properly in the remaining States would be met?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In conformity with the letter and spirit of Part IX of the Constitution, read with Article 243 ZD and the Eleventh Schedule, these Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) covering the 29 subjects listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution are to be planned and implemented by Panchayati Raj Institutions functioning as "Institutions of Local Self-Government". While the guidelines in respect of some CSS, provide for the centrality of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), there are other CSS where the PRIs are yet to assign a central role. In order to clarify and ensure the role of the PRIs in all CSS, consultations are being held with the Central Ministries concerned under the aegis of the Cabinet Secretariat.

(c) and (d) Panchayats in all States and Union Territories (UTs), covered under Part IX of the Constitution, have been duly constituted except in the State of Jharkhand where Panchayat elections have not been held owing to pending litigation before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.